

08/16/13 - Juror Scams Return

There has been press coverage this week about a recurrence of juror scams in courts around the country, now including one federal district of which we are aware -- New Mexico. All of these scams appear to be variations on the one reported three times yesterday to the district court in New Mexico. There, the court received inquiries from residents about a call they had received purportedly from court staff for failing to appear for jury service pursuant to a summons. None of them had actually been called for jury service, but each received a call from a man indicating that they missed a scheduled court appearance and instructing them that they needed to pay a \$400 fine or risk having a warrant issued for their arrest. They were instructed to take care of the \$400 fine immediately by going to a Wal-Mart or CVS to purchase a "money pack" -- a type of prepaid credit card. They were instructed that, after purchasing this "money pack" card, they were to call a specific phone number and read off the number on the money pack card for the payment to be made and the fine to be settled.

This report from New Mexico, along with other similar reports from around the country this week, confirms that these scams are back after a decline in recent years. Please note that federal courts will never ask jurors to provide sensitive information, social security numbers or credit card numbers in a telephone call.

For more information about juror scams and how to respond if you believe someone may have attempted to involve you in one, please visit the United States Courts web page addressing this matter at

<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/JuryService/JurorScams.aspx>